



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE DESIGNATION OF A STATE FUNERAL FOR THE LAST SURVIVING WORLD WAR II MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT.

WHEREAS, World War II, the most widespread war in history, lasted from 1939 until 1945; and

WHEREAS, the United States entered the war in 1941, following an attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese fighter planes; and

WHEREAS, over 16 million Americans served their country and the Allied powers over the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, the generation of men and women who served our country in World War II has been called the "greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred on members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to our nation's bravest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen since the creation of the award in 1861; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 353 Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, only four of those 353 Americans are alive today; and

WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York, Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia all served their country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state funeral; and

WHEREAS, historically, the President of the United States has designated state funerals for former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans; and

WHEREAS, our nation is currently divided and yearns for a unifying national event; and

WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor all 16 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who served in the United States Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the President of the United States be urged to designate a state funeral for the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

(2) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the congressional record.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HJ 21, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

INTRODUCED BY L. BISHOP, D. BEDEY, S. BERGLEE, M. BERTOGLIO, G. FRAZER, J. FULLER, F.  
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